

E-2 EXPLOSION CAUSED BY GAS, EXPERTS THINK

Admiral Usher and Navy Consulting Board Members Say This Most Likely Theory.

INQUIRY STARTS TOMORROW

Meanwhile, Idea of Bomb Is Ridiculed—Hudson Maxim Exonerates Edison Batteries

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—The investigation into the explosion on the submarine E-2, which killed four men and injured eleven in the Brooklyn navy yard yesterday, will proceed tomorrow under the direction of Lieut. Pope Washington.

The injured men, who were taken to the Cumberland Street Hospital, were reported resting easily this afternoon. All will recover.

Meanwhile, beyond the report of the submarine's commander, Lieut. Charles M. Cooke, there is little ground to work on. He reported that both batteries of the E-2 had been affected by the explosion.

Admiral Usher, the navy commandant, reiterated today his assertion that the disaster was caused by gas or some similar agency. The idea that the boat was wrecked by an enemy was ridiculed.

Hydrogen Gas Suspected.

Until an official report is made, all theories of the cause of the explosion must be based on conjecture. Expert navy men believe that hydrogen gas generated by the batteries and mingling with the air may have caused the trouble.

The E-2 was the only submarine equipped with the new Edison batteries. It carried 230 of these each in a steel jar weighing 600 pounds. The hydrogen gas accumulates in top, above a quantity of water, usually about twenty gallons.

The men at work upon these batteries yesterday were drawing off the gas and replenishing the water. It is believed that a workman touched a wrench to the terminals of one of the batteries, thus making an arc, and that this produced the spark which ignited the gas between the tops of the steel jars and the electrolyte.

"There was not at least there should not have been anything aboard the E-2," said Admiral Usher, "which could explode."

The submarine had been in dry dock since December 30. She was dry outside, and sea water, which when a submarine is submerged might help in the formation of chlorine gas in boats equipped with lead batteries, could not enter into the accident, for the E-2 was equipped with steel jars and was not submerged.

There is a disposition here to wait the report of the experts before accepting the intimation of Acting Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Clegg, that the explosion might not have been due to gas.

Hudson Maxim's Views.

Hudson Maxim, one of the members of the naval consulting board, said:

"There was a gathering of escaping explosive gases, an explosive mixture for which the Edison batteries could not possibly have been to blame. In connecting other batteries a spark might have been made, perhaps by the dropping of a hammer, but it is utterly impossible, in my opinion, for the Edison batteries to have been to blame."

Elmer A. Sperry, another member of the board, said:

"I am not at all sure that the Edison batteries were the cause of the explosion. It is possible that the explosion might not have been due to gas."

(Continued on Second Page.)

BLOCKADE OF GERMANY IN EFFECT NOW

Britain Prepared to Declare It, and Will Be Supported by American Precedents.

CZAR MAY HELP MAINTAIN IT

Big and Complicated Change in This Country's Relationship to War Foreshadowed.

By JUDSON C. WELLIVER.

A big and complicated change in this country's relationship to the European war is foreshadowed by the reports that Great Britain and France will shortly declare a general blockade of the entire seacoast of Germany.

It is not announced whether Russia will join, but it is expected she will, inasmuch as her naval power and bases in the Baltic will contribute largely to enforcing a blockade.

Thus far the allies have not declared a blockade of Germany; they have proceeded under "orders in council" which designate lists of contraband whose shipment to Germany was forbidden and which were liable to seizure when so destined.

A Wide Difference.

There is a wide difference between such regulations as these, and the proclamation of a blockade. The orders in council merely aim to keep out of Germany those things which have been declared contraband. There are two kinds of contraband: absolute, which comprises articles primarily adapted and used for war purposes; and conditional, which means articles that may be used in war though not necessarily so. Merchandise other than these classes is not to be declared contraband. Presumably, then, it may be sent to the belligerent without interference.

But there is a limit to this. Articles on the contraband list may and will be seized when found, whether there is a blockade or not. Those which are not on the contraband list may be shut out by declaring a blockade, which is a prohibition of all commerce with the enemy country.

There is a wide difference. International custom requires that a blockade must be effective, a vessel running through it must be subjected to real risk of capture. Contraband may be captured whether there is a blockade or not. Contraband may be captured if there is a blockade.

Blockade Really In Effect.

Suppose Austria and the United States were at war. Austria could not make a blockade of the United States effective; therefore she would not declare a blockade. But she would issue a contraband list, and thereafter would be privileged to seize contraband destined to the United States. The United States, on the other hand, by reason of superior naval power and the shortness of the Austrian seacoast, might actually blockade Austria and make it effective so the United States would gain the right to seize anything whatever destined to Austria.

In the present war, the allies found their difficulty, first, in making a blockade of Germany physically effective. They failed at length accomplished this on the Atlantic side, but not on the Baltic.

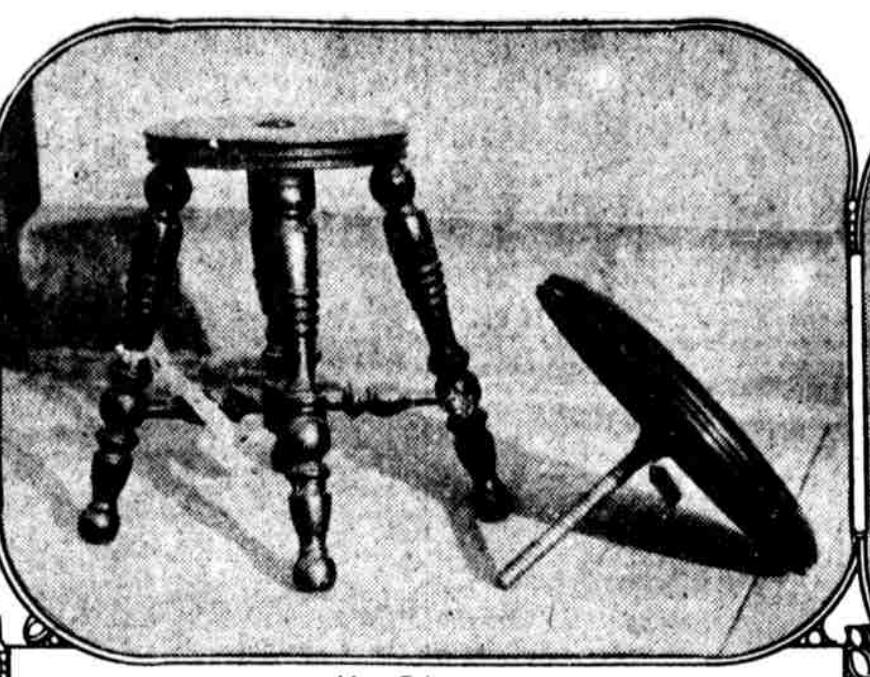
(Continued on Page Eleven.)

Capital's Greatest Murder Mystery

Still Unsolved After Fourteen Years



DETECTIVE CHAS. A. EVANS, who was active in hunting for mysterious assailant.



Below—Diagram of the first floor of slain woman's home. Arrows show course believed to have been taken by murderer.



NED "DAD" HORNE, formerly central office detective, now at the White House.

COLLEGE BUILDING PREY TO FLAMES

Historic Documents and Valuable Archives Also Burned at Chestertown, Md., Institution

CHESTERTOWN, Md., Jan. 16.—William Smith Hall, the main building at Washington College, was wrecked by fire this morning. All the archives, including many historic documents, some of them in the handwriting of George Washington, were burned. The building cost \$15,000 to erect, and was insured for about \$20,000.

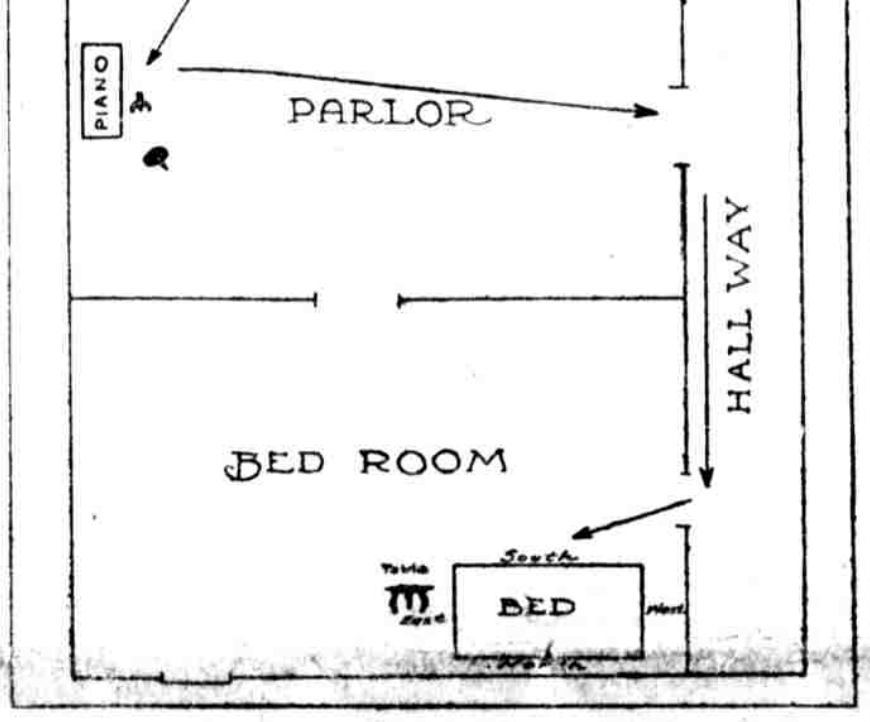
In the building was the library of the college which also was a complete loss. The institution had books and manuscripts of priceless value, but the flames which started at 2 o'clock in the boiler room, went from floor to floor with such rapidity that saving them was beyond question.

James M. Cain, president of the college, members of the faculty, and the students, about 125 young men, stood by while the college building burned, unable to aid.

The heating plant for the whole group of buildings was located in this building because it was the newest and the finest of all. The furnaces had been fired up well because the night was cold.

The building was the library of the college which also was a complete loss. The institution had books and manuscripts of priceless value, but the flames which started at 2 o'clock in the boiler room, went from floor to floor with such rapidity that saving them was beyond question.

James M. Cain, president of the college, members of the faculty, and the students, about 125 young men, stood by while the college building burned, unable to aid.



Above—Piano stool, the top of which was used by the person, who murdered Mrs. Dennis in her bedroom on morning of December 10, 1901.

Below—Diagram of the first floor of slain woman's home. Arrows show course believed to have been taken by murderer.

VON PAPEN PAPERS OPEN NEW ISSUES

Lansing Holds U. S. Not Responsible for Belongings of Expelled Attache.

An issue has arisen between the State Department and the German embassy over Ambassador von Bernstorff's protest against the action of the British authorities in seizing the papers and personal belongings of Captain von Papen, the recalled military attache.

Count von Bernstorff declares that the seizure was in violation of the terms of safe conduct which the recalled attache.

The State Department holds that it specifically requested safe conduct for von Papen's person, and that the request did not extend to his baggage or papers.

It was strongly intimated today that the United States will take no official action on the ambassador's protest.

More Papers Revealed.

State Department officials were advised today that additional documents taken from von Papen had been made public by the British foreign office. These documents contained evidence that von Papen had paid some of money to Paul Koenig, the Hamburg-American official now under indictment at New York for conspiring to blow up the locks of the Willand canal, and to Hans Adam von Wedell, who was indicted at New York for procuring false passports, but escaped to Germany.

It was announced that the State Department will turn over the von Papen letters to the Department of Justice, if after they are received from Ambassador Page, it is found there is anything of incriminating nature in them.

Importance Minimized.

Officials minimized the importance of records taken from von Papen showing payments of money by the German embassy to von Papen, and subsequent payments by von Papen to Koenig, Koenig, and others. These money transactions in themselves, officials said, would not be sufficient to establish legal evidence of fraud, unless the Government could prove the money was actually paid for fraudulent purposes.

Secretary of State Lansing has refused to discuss the von Papen revelations, saying that he has received from Ambassador Page, all that the department now knows of the contents of those letters is what is contained in statements given out by the British foreign office, and officials refuse to take official cognizance of evidence against any one of the belligerents against enemy officials.

TRAIN WRECKS DELAY FLIGHT OF AMERICANS FROM MEXICO

Scores of U. S. Citizens, Trying to Escape Assassination, Are Tied Up Somewhere South of Juarez.

Anxiety Felt for 500 Mormons in Colony Around Casas Grandes—Church Urges Them to Cross Border.

EL PASO, Jan. 16.—Two train loads of Americans, fleeing from the danger of murder and assassination in Mexico, are somewhere south of Juarez, tied up without food, because of a wreck.

One of the trains of seven coaches loaded with Americans left the city of Chihuahua last night and was due in El Paso before daylight today. The other train is from Parral, southwest of Chihuahua City, and bears 120 Americans. This train was tied up by a wreck at Santa Rosalia last night, and if it should get past that point, would be subject to another delay because of the wrecked train north of Chihuahua.

Whether any of the Americans were injured in the wrecks is not stated.

Arrangements are under way here to send down a train from here to take food and water to relieve those on the first train if the train is not righted and started north in a few hours.

LEFT YESTERDAY.

The special which is held up below Chihuahua is in charge of John Baskin. Mr. Baskin left El Paso Thursday for Parral to bring out employees of the Alvarado Mining Company in that district. The train reached Parral safely, according to advices here, and is believed to have left for the border yesterday. A military escort was furnished it.

Americans in northern Mexico are heeding to the fullest extent the State Department's instructions to return to the United States or to the nearest well-garrisoned places. News of the American massacre by this time, it is supposed, has been conveyed to even the most remote districts in Chihuahua, where there are foreigners, and it is believed that all Americans in the state are making their way by horseback, rail, and in wagons to the nearest place where they can secure trains for the border.

Anxiety is felt for the safety of 500 Mormon colonists in the district around Casas Grandes. Railway advices from that section report everything quiet there, despite reports that Villa bandits are making their way northward into that section. Telegrams received last night by military officials of the Mormons from church officials in Salt Lake City, instructed the local men to use every effort to persuade the colonists to come to the border.

Train service on the Mexican Northwestern is irregular, though it is understood that military officials in Juarez have offered the use of special trains to the Mormons.

Consul To Stay In Juarez.

American Consul Marion Letcher, who was instructed by the State Department yesterday to return to Chihuahua, received a telegram from the department at the last minute ordering him to remain here. Mr. Letcher was in Juarez waiting for the train when he got the order. There was no explanation for the rescinding of the previous instructions.

A passenger train left Juarez yesterday afternoon for Chihuahua. It carried a number of fifty men, including the Carranza military officials in Juarez.

Federal services for G. R. Watson, general manager of the Cusi Mining Company, who was murdered by bandits at Santa Isabel, were held this morning. The Masonic lodge, of which Mr. Watson was a member, had charge of the service.

Richard P. McLintock's funeral is being held this afternoon. The "Elks" lodge will take part in the service.

W. J. Wallace's funeral will be held tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

With these funerals completed, all but one of the massacred Americans who have been buried, either here or at their homes in other portions of the country. The only other remaining member of the ill-fated group whose funeral has not been arranged or whose body has not been shipped away is Tom Johnson. Police advices regarding Mr. Johnson's remains have not been received and the body has been placed in a vault.

Open indignation continues to be expressed here at the Government's action in the latest Mexican outrage. The Times (democratic), commenting on the situation this morning, said: "Where the job comes is that the de facto government in Mexico is troubled with the same ailment which preyed

MAN HELD UP TWICE IN FIVE MINUTES

Unfortunate Georgetown Resident Runs Into Two Pairs of Thugs on Prospect Avenue.

Knocked down and robbed by two pairs of thugs in five minutes was the untimely and painful experience of Douglas Blinn, of 127 Thirty-fourth street northwest, last night. According to the story told the police by Blinn, he was approached by two colored men early this morning at Prospect and Potomac avenues. Without a word, the men set upon him and knocked him to the ground. While one of the men stood over him the other pulled his pockets of \$5 Blinn says.

The victim of this robbery was hospitalized after the men fled. He was taken to the hospital and his wounds were treated. He was released after five minutes and was taken to his home at 127 Thirty-fourth street northwest. He was again approached by two colored men early this morning at Prospect and Potomac avenues. Without a word, the men set upon him and knocked him to the ground. While one of the men stood over him the other pulled his pockets of \$5 Blinn says.

The victim of this robbery was hospitalized after the men fled. He was taken to the hospital and his wounds were treated. He was released after five minutes and was taken to his home at 127 Thirty-fourth street northwest. He was again approached by two colored men early this morning at Prospect and Potomac avenues. Without a word, the men set upon him and knocked him to the ground. While one of the men stood over him the other pulled his pockets of \$5 Blinn says.

The victim of this robbery was hospitalized after the men fled. He was taken to the hospital and his wounds were treated. He was released after five minutes and was taken to his home at 127 Thirty-fourth street northwest. He was again approached by two colored men early this morning at Prospect and Potomac avenues. Without a word, the men set upon him and knocked him to the ground. While one of the men stood over him the other pulled his pockets of \$5 Blinn says.

MOTOR CAR TURNS TURTLE, NINE HURT

Three Women and Six Men Badly Shaken Up in Accident at Elkridge.

Nine persons, three women and six men, were injured when a high-powered touring car turned turtle at the railroad tracks, off the Baltimore turnpike, at Elkridge, Md., while on the way from here to Baltimore early today. The women and two of the men are at Emergency Hospital, while the other victims of the accident are confined to their homes.

Those at the hospital gave their names as Lena Hart, twenty-one, of 714 Eighth street southwest; Lena Burnhardt, twenty, of 63 H street southwest; Mary Anderson, twenty-two, of 2207 Pennsylvania avenue southeast; George B. Jenks, thirty-nine, 823 Third street northeast, and Tyne Thomas, twenty-five, of 1504 Rosedale street northeast.

The other four victims, according to the police report, are J. E. Fowler, 829 Third street northeast; Emory Sylvester, 614 Fifteenth street northeast; Ralph Sharp, 219 P street northwest, and Olin Hendrick, 1509 G street northeast.

The injured motorists were brought to this city from Elkridge on a train which reached Union Station about 5:30 o'clock this morning. They were picked up at the scene of the accident by residents in the vicinity.

While those at the hospital are the more seriously hurt of the party, physicians attending them say that they will all probably be able to leave in three or four days with the exception of Jenks, who is said to have been having the fracture when the accident occurred, and who is expected to be out in a week or two.

Jenks' condition is the doctors may be suffering from a severe internal injury, while the other victims are victims of bad cuts and bruises.

RUSS OPEN GENERAL ATTACK IN CAUCASUS

Offensive Along Front of Almost One Hundred Miles Begun Says Constantinople.

CONSTANTINOPLE (via wireless to Berlin and London), Jan. 16.—A new general offensive along a front of almost 100 miles has been undertaken in the Caucasus by re-enforced Russian columns, according to a Turkish war office statement, the text of which follows:

"On the Caucasus front the enemy, heavily re-enforced, began a general offensive on January 11. The fighting which is taking place over a front of nearly 100 miles, between Karabagh, south of the Araks river, and Ichah, south of Mito, is developing favorably to us."

"Two Russian attacks near Karabagh, south of Kogji, on January 13, resulted in the complete defeat of the enemy. The fighting was continued in disorder. Prisoners taken at this point state that in four days' fighting each of their regiments lost at least 100 dead."

"A Russian attack near Karabagh, south of Kogji, on January 13, resulted in the complete defeat of the enemy. The fighting was continued in disorder. Prisoners taken at this point state that in four days' fighting each of their regiments lost at least 100 dead."

"A Russian attack near Karabagh, south of Kogji, on January 13, resulted in the complete defeat of the enemy. The fighting was continued in disorder. Prisoners taken at this point state that in four days' fighting each of their regiments lost at least 100 dead."

Law Realized Years Ago It Had Come Face to Face With Its Arch Enemy—"The Perfect Criminal"—Who Killed Mrs. Ada Dennis.

Detectives Describe Baffling Case.

There are times when murder will not "out."

On these occasions the relentless tentacles of the law are far-flung upon the discovery of the crime, in the hope of enmeshing some hapless man or woman who wears an invisible brand of Cain. But when clues and evidence fail, when all of the skill of men trained in the hunting of man has been traversed to its barren end, then the hand of the law, stayed by the wall of impenetrable mystery, goes groping through fruitless years, unguided save by surmise and conjecture.

Then it is that the law recognizes that it has come face to face with its arch enemy, a being of fortunately rare occurrence—"The Perfect Criminal!"—he or she who slays and leaves no trace behind.

He comes from the obscurity of an every-day casual existence, where no police record stood against him later to set Nemesis on his track. He is impelled by an impulse known only to himself and to his intended prey. Covered by the all-concealing veil of night, he steals, unseen, to the home of him whose life he seeks. The deed of darkness is done with an improvised weapon—the property of his victim.

BLOOD LUST IS SATIATED.

A moaning battered shred of humanity whose soul is seeping out through gashing wounds lies before him at last. The blood lust is satiated.

Piece by piece the murderer goes over his clothing. No drop of avenging blood has settled there to betray him. The hands of the murdered, outflung in the agony of red death, have failed to tear loose a single button or thread which might later rise to fasten the black cap of the condemned-to-hang about his eyes. And so, safe from every accusation save that of an outraged, restless conscience, the murderer fades into the obscurity whence he came; to take up uninterrupted his casual life, and to leave the mystery of another "perfect crime" upon the murder annals of the age.

Fourteen years ago such a crime was committed in Washington. A woman with a past whose husband, a tragedist of renown, had trod the old-time boards of tragedy with Edwin Booth, was found a bleeding and semi-conscious wreck. In the parlor of her home was discovered the instrument which had wrought the evil—a piano stool.

The Washington police plunged feverishly into the case. At first they were confident the criminal would soon be in their toils. They arrested a colored porter. They probed into the woman's past. They investigated her friendly neighbors. They followed her to the hotel in Texas and back to the city. They searched the city for a while.

And all the while the woman lay in the hospital unable to talk coherently, except when in the dead of

GRIP CURING SERUM LOWERS DEATH RATE

Reduces Mortality in New York From 551 to 442 in a Week.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—Dr. Charles F. Bolduan, of the department of health, has announced that the grip epidemic is being checked by the use of a serum containing bacilli capable of curing the disease in twenty-four hours.

In support of his statement, Dr. Bolduan asserted statistics of the department of health show that whereas 551 deaths were caused by grip in the previous week, only 442 persons died from the ailment in the week just ended. The change to cold weather helped the campaign against the malady, he asserted.

The Berlin newspapers, in printing reports of the Kaiser's assistance at a luncheon, and at several public places, completely recovered from the slight indisposition produced by a carbuncle on his neck.

The Berlin newspapers, in printing reports of the Kaiser's assistance at a luncheon, and at several public places, completely recovered from the slight indisposition produced by a carbuncle on his neck.

The Berlin newspapers, in printing reports of the Kaiser's assistance at a luncheon, and at several public places, completely recovered from the slight indisposition produced by a carbuncle on his neck.

KAISER PLANS VISIT TO WESTERN FRONT

BERLIN, Jan. 16.—Kaiser Wilhelm plans to visit the western front within another fortnight, it is stated, having completely recovered from the slight indisposition produced by a carbuncle on his neck.

The Berlin newspapers, in printing reports of the Kaiser's assistance at a luncheon, and at several public places, completely recovered from the slight indisposition produced by a carbuncle on his neck.

The Berlin newspapers, in printing reports of the Kaiser's assistance at a luncheon, and at several public places, completely recovered from the slight indisposition produced by a carbuncle on his neck.

Has Aboard Special Life Preservers for Children

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—Life-preservers specially made for children up to twelve were carried on the Munson liner Munmar when she sailed yesterday for Antilla, Cuba. She had fifty in two boxes, marked "For Children."

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—Life-preservers specially made for children up to twelve were carried on the Munson liner Munmar when she sailed yesterday for Antilla, Cuba. She had fifty in two boxes, marked "For Children."

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—Life-preservers specially made for children up to twelve were carried on the Munson liner Munmar when she sailed yesterday for Antilla, Cuba. She had fifty in two boxes, marked "For Children."